

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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MOSCOW FOR BENSON AND LEMMON; LENINGRAD FOR GEIS

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:OEXC, UR, US (KING, LARRY)

SUBJECT:WORLD TEAM TENNIS -- UPDATE ON US TEAM TRAVEL

REF: BENSON-DEMITZ TELECON (3/4/76); MOSCOW 3358;
AND PREVIOUS

1. DEPT CONTACTED LARRY KING, AND CAN CONFIRM THAT
US WORLD TEAM TENNIS CONTINGENT PLANS ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 7, AT 1305 HOURS LOCAL TIME.

2. TOTAL US PARTY NUMBERS 16RPT 16 PERSONS. POSSIBILITY
EXISTS THAT ALL 16 MAY NOT, RPT NOT, ARRIVE ON SAME FLIGHT.
AT PRESENT LARRY AND BILLIE JEAN KING, AND ROSEMARY
CASALS, HAVE "BACKUP" RESERVATIONS FOR ARRIVAL MOSCOW
ON MONDAY MARCH 8. REASON FOR BACKUP CONTINGENCY IS THAT
LAST-MINUTE ARRANGEMENTS IN US MAY REQUIRE THESE THREE
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PERSONS TO DELAY DEPARTURE WITH REST OF GROUP. HOWEVER,

KING INDICATED TO DEPTOFF THAT HE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE GROUP TRAVEL ON THE 7TH.

3. KING INDICATED HE AND ENTIRE GROUP ARE DELIGHTED AT INVITATION TO SPASO HOUSE COCKTAIL HOUR AND LIGHT SUPPER. KING STATED THIS GIVES HIM ADDED REASON TO ARRIVE ON THE SUNDAY FLIGHT. KING ASKED DEPT RELAY HIS DEEP

APPRECIATION TO AMBASSADOR STOESSEL FOR HIS INVITATION AND PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS SPORTS EXCHANGE.

4. KING ALSO INDICATED HIS THANKS TO EMBASSY FOR ITS OFFER TO HAVE EMBASSY REP PRESENT AT AIRPORT FOR ARRIVAL OF GROUP. KING MENTIONED THAT BORIS FOMENKO OF USSR SPORTS FEDERATION HAD STATED HE WOULD PLAN TO BE PRESENT AT AIRPORT ALSO. KING WILL BE SURE TO NOTIFY DEPT, SO THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED OF ANY CHANGE IN TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

5. THE US TENNIS GROUP PLANS TO STAY AT THE HOTEL UKRAINE.

6. AS OF COB IN DC ON MARCH 4, THE VISAS FOR THE US GROUP HAVE NOT, RPT NOT, BEEN ISSUED BY SOVEMB WASHINGTON. LARRY KING INDICATED TO DEPTOFF THAT REPRESENTATIVE OF WORLD TEAM TENNIS HAD VISITED SOVEMB WASHINGTON ON MARCH 4, AND VISAS WERE STILL NOT READY FOR ISSUANCE. DEPTOFF ASKED KING TO NOTIFY DEPT ON VISA STATUS EARLY IN MORNING OF MARCH 5. KING STATED THAT SOVEMB PERSONNEL SEEMED TO FEEL THAT ISSUANCE COULD BE MADE VERY SOON. KING IS IN PERSONAL CONTACT WITH SOVEMB ALSO, AND FEELS OPTIMISTIC THAT VISAS WILL BE ISSUED IN TIME.

7. HERE IS FULL LIST OF US WORLD TEAM TENNIS GROUP:
LARRY KING AND BILLIE JEAN KING; ROSEMARY CASALS;
VITUS GERULAITIS, JR. AND VITUS GERULAITIS, SR.;
MONA SCHALLAU GURRANT; ALEXANDER MAYER AND FATHER;
BILL BEREMAN AND MRS. SUE BEREMAN AND MRS. CLAYDIE BEREMAN
(MOTHER OF MR. BEREMAN, WHO IS OWNER OF THE WORLD TEAM
TENNIS FRANCHISE IN INDIANAPOLIS); MARTY RIESSEN;
EARL BUCHOLTZ; DINA MAKAROVA (PHOTOGRAPHER/INTERPRETER);
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RICHARD WEISMAN; AND MELISSA DEGAN.

8. LARRY KING CONFIRMS THAT STARTING TIME OF 1700 FOR MATCHES ON MAR 8, AND STARTING TIME OF 1900 FOR MATCHES ON MARCH 9 ARE ACCORDING TO AGREEMENT WORKED OUT BETWEEN KING AND SOVIETS. 2 SINGLES AND 2 DOUBLES DAILY MEETS WITH KING'S APPROVAL.

9. KING AND GROUP GRATEFUL TO AMB. AND MRS. STOESSEL FOR

LUNCHEON INVITATION FOR MARCH 9. WILL GLADLY ACCEPT.

10. DEPT WILL ADVISE EMBASSY AS SOON AS MORE DETAILS
AVAILABLE. KISSINGER

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